



#SpikeDinosAdventures

Welcome to Spike Dino's daily post for children learning from home.

Portraits; Bishop Robert Abbot

Spike found this portrait of Robert Abbot, Bishop of Salisbury in the Great Hall. He noticed a couple of strange things about it. Firstly, it's not painted on paper or canvas. Instead it's painted on wooden boards. If you look closely you can see where the boards join together.

Secondly Spike realised that the eyes were following him wherever he walked in the room. He found this very strange but also very clever. He'd only ever heard of one other painting where the eyes follow you and that is the Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci.

Having a portrait painted in the 16th and 17th century meant sitting still for long periods of time. The artist would not have had a camera to take a picture to copy. Instead they would have made initial sketches and notes, but the sitter—the person in the painting would have had to sit for a long time, especially when their face was being painted. Today we can take a photograph of a person and send it to our family and friends at the click of a button!

Activity; Spike thought it would be fun to have his portrait drawn or painted. Have a go at creating Spike's portrait and share it with us. You could also do a portrait of your pet or someone in your family. Can you make the eyes follow you around the room when it's hung on the wall?



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